and banana have to be irrigated. For this purpose as well as for teaching the boys the principles of irrigation by mechanical power, the oil-engine is necessary, and hence the provision for its maintenance. Finally, a sum of Rs. 1,200 is provided under stipends. Ten poor but deserving boys out of the thirty-two attending the school are given each a stipend of Rs. 10 per mensem which will enable them to meet their boarding charges in the hostel. Tuition is free and hence they have no other expenses to meet. The remaining boys get their own money to meet all their expenses. The items mentioned above are the most imporant ones included in the lump allotment of Rs. 6,000. I think that my friends on the other side will admit that my demand for a modest sum of Rs. 6,000 for an Agricultural School in its initial stage is not an extravagant one. If they think that this is too large an amount to be spent on the school, I would for my part rather close the institution than agree to a cut in the provision.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: I think, Sir, that the thanks of the House are due to Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai for having tabled this motion, as otherwise the House would not have had the opportunity of listening to a very interesting account of the work that is being carried on at Alwaye. I have to oppose the motion put forward by Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 137.**

The following motion was not made:

MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI:

137. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·95 lakhs under Demand XV by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House Demand XV—Agriculture and Fisheries— for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·95 lakhs.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XVI— Industries.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Sir, I beg to move that a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·58 lakhs be made under Demand XVI—Industries.

***Motion* 138.**

The following motion was not made:

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

138. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,600 for travelling allowance by Rs. 2,500.

***Motion* 139.**

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I rise to make the following motion:

139. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 66,180 for Direction by Rs. 14,300.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

My purpose is obvious. I need hardly point out that the material salvation of India depends on industrial reconstruction and it is gratifying to see the Government of Travancore devoting a portion of their revenues towards the attainment of that object. The idea of industrial improvement took possession of the Government long ago, but the Industrial School of Arts has hitherto been more useful to afford pleasure to distinguished visitors, to Governors of Provinces and to Military Commanders than to increase the wealth of the country. The Government understood the importance of coal and iron and sent two stipendiary scholars to Europe. Both of them took their degrees, and on their return home were appointed State Geologists. They were asked to draw up schemes for working the mineral resources of the State. They travelled throughout the country and prepared plans of work, which, curiously enough, were forwarded to the then Principal of the College, who had very little knowledge of geology or mining. His criticisms were neither just nor generous, but as Dr. Mitchell was considered by an admiring Government to be proficient in all departments of human knowledge, his opinion prevailed, and the Geologists had to compromise their position and find relief in their salaries. One of them then severed his connection, or, to be more accurate, was made to do so. The other remained in service and tried to do his duty amid the bleak freezings of neglect to which the Government exposed him. Not one of his proposals was accepted and no mining industries were seriously contemplated. The Department of Geology, however, cost the tax-payer the sum of more than a lakh and a half of rupees. In the meantime, a German firm discovered mohazite, got the right of removing it and made immense profits. And but for the sagacity of the Government in combining the office of the Geologist with that of the Director of Industries, the problem would have assumed insurmountable difficulties.

Let us now consider the conditions of this new-fledged department. There again we find a policy of drift, and I am glad to say that the present Dewan had the straightforwardness to admit this in his first address to the Popular Assembly. Sir, a person was got down from England to be the Vice-Principal of a college which, the Director of Public Instruction has reminded the House, I called the "white elephant" of the Travancore Government. The necessity of that appointment was questioned. Dr. Barker had free scope for his personal ambitions. Mr. Krishnan Nair's Government embarked upon a scheme of encouraging industries and the industrious Dr. Barker automatically became the head of the department. All the information available in the State was indented upon as the material for original lectures in this very hall and elsewhere, and industrial survey of a precious kind was said to be made and its glorious results were published in the form of an expensive book at the cost of Government. Every scrap of information, right or wrong, useful or useless,

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and whether based on actual facts or collected under the auspices of the freedom of his imagination no less than that of the Industrial Department, found a place in that compilation. The Director fancied that he had the talisman with him and the Government were in great hopes. Shellac experts, oil experts and bee experts began to fill the pages of the Civil List; and jaggery factories, pencil factories and screwpine factories were sought to be established. More appointments were made and pay and allowances freely disbursed. When the Dewan inspected those beautiful institutions, the hollowness of industrial development was exposed. A superintendent of the prospective jaggery factory was sent to Kaviyur and he lived there for about a year. I know him personally. The young man often came and told me that he had no work and that it was unconscionable to receive pay without doing anything. But he was asked to vegetate at Kaviyur. A good sum of money was given to a respectable firm in Quilon for making the plant for the factory. Of course, they got it ready and portions of it are now seen in the premises of the Director's office dividing the 'solstitial rains and equinoxial hurricanes.' And the author of all this loss is enjoying a pension in his sweet home at the expense of the Travancore Government after a long service of five years. Sir, this is not the first time that we have been lashed round the circle of failures and disappointments. It is to prevent that as far as possible that I invite the attention of the House to this matter. We have a few young men among us who have been trained in electrical engineering, textile manufacture, etc. I want the best use to be made of their talents and energies. The present Director is a Geologist and I do not think that he will be able to chalk out a plan of work in those directions. Nor do I think that the Government possess the expert knowledge required. Let us, therefore, not embark on precipitous ventures. We want a thorough workable scheme suited to the conditions of the country. Industrial experts are very rare and they are very costly. We should, however, secure the services of the best men, however large be the remuneration we may have to pay them. Sir, these young men should be properly guided in their respective spheres. The foundation should be laid before the superstructure is raised. We have to utilise the Industrial Department for the expansion of industries, large and small. We may have to encourage not only hydro-electric schemes, paper mills, candle and soap factories, and sugar factories, but pottery, wickerwork, handloom weaving and a host of other minor industries have also to be started and strengthened. As His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda has said, referring to indigenous crafts:

"A great deal of attention is naturally paid to the mill industries of India, to tea, indigo, coffee and other industries in which European capital is largely employed. We know, however, that the labourers who can possibly be employed in mills and factories form only an insignificant proportion of the industrial population of India. Very much the larger portion of the industrial population is engaged in indigenous industries carried on in village homes and bazaars.....It is the humble weavers in towns and villages the poor braziers and copper-smiths working in their sheds, the resourceless potters and iron-smiths and carpenters, who follow their ancestral vocations in their ancestral homes, who form the main portion of the industrial population, and who demand our sympathy and help. It is they (more than the agriculturists or the

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[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

mill and factory labourers) that are most impoverished in these days and are the first victims to famines.....Help and encourage the large industries, but foster and help also the humble industries in which tens of millions of village artisans are engaged.'"

But the chief point is that we should make attempts in a spirit of seriousness. The people require help and backing, not control and direction. It is the want of capital that stares the intending employer in the face. Therefore, this Council should see that necessary amounts are lent to them under proper security. Small economies are prejudicial to the cause. If there are two steamers waiting to take us, say, from Dhanushkoti to Colombo, the one cheaper but manned by inefficient crew, and the other manned by proper men, we should select the latter one, although we may have to pay a higher fare. It is better to spend and win than to stint and lose.

Now, Sir, the sum of Rs. 14,300 that I want to be omitted is made up of Rs. 10,000 for equipment, tools, etc., for the textile expert, Rs. 4,000 for the tanning expert and Rs. 300 for the oil chemist. These sums are very poor and are likely to be wasted, as similar sums were wasted on previous occasions. We have passed the time for doubtful experiments and compassionate allowances. All the young men are good at their business. To allot Rs. 14,300 for all of them together is like feeding an elephant on a measure of rice. (*Laughter.*) My object is to see that a larger amount is provided. Let us not take the hope out of them and expectation from the public. I seriously attack the claims of the Industrial Department for consideration before this Council. I, therefore, beg to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 14,300.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Sir, I am not in a position to answer a great part of what Mr. Velu Pillai has said about the Industries Department and the policy of Government with regard to the Geological Department in the past. All that is beyond my jurisdiction, so to speak. A discussion of those questions will not serve any useful purpose either.

The chief question I have to answer is whether I am going to provide work for the three experts who have been recently entertained in the Department of Industries. I have a clear plan of work for these experts. First of all, I may speak about the textile expert. You know that there is a great deal of cotton weaving practised as a cottage industry in Travancore. But the weaving is carried on in many cases in a primitive manner. Owing to the endeavours of the Government through the S. M. R. V. Institute at Nagercoil, the use of fly-shuttle looms has spread to all parts of Travancore. Still, there is a great deal to be done in the improvement of weaving as a cottage industry. It is contemplated that the industry should be further improved by the introduction of new methods of warping, sizing and other textile processes and by organising markets for the finished products. It is also proposed that the department should endeavour to improve the methods of coir manufacture which now exists at Alleppey and other places. I have been

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making enquiries and I find that the ordinary Indian dyer experiences many technical difficulties in dyeing coir. The success of our coir industry depends on the reputation the manufacturer can maintain in foreign markets with regard to the fastness of his colours and the quality of his goods.

Lace manufacture is practised as a cottage industry in many parts of Travancore. In South Travancore and at Quilon there are a few people who collect the lace for export. But, in North and Central Travancore, no work is practically done in lace-making. It is possible to spread this industry in that part of the country, where it will be a source of income to the poor cottagers. Another industry that can be spread in Travancore is knitting, such as the making of banians and stockings. It is now carried on, on a small scale, at Kundara, Avanisvaram and other places. Then there is the embroidery work. There is a considerable demand for embroidery and it can be made a paying cottage industry for women. The textile expert, Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai, has had a good training in textile manufacture and tinctorial chemistry in England and his duty will be to organise these and allied industries in the State.

It is also proposed to start an institute of textile technology in Trivandrum for imparting advanced instruction in textile methods, for evolving new methods in handloom weaving and for training weaving teachers. For these purposes, I have budgeted for Rs. 31,000 including a sum of Rs. 21,000 for acquiring lands near the School of Arts. I have not budgeted for a greater amount, because I am not sure that more than this amount can be spent with advantage next year.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: With regard to the weaving industry, may I know from the Director of Industries whether anything can be done to popularise *charka* spinning?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: I have no objection to it, if it is paying.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I wish to know if anything is proposed to be done on a factory scale.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: I think factory industries ought to be taken up by private enterprise. The department and the Government will do all that they can for fostering private enterprise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Is it not the duty of the Government to encourge small industries by giving liberal subsidies? Is the member aware that this is the practice in many countries?

PRESIDENT: We are not talking of subsidies.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: If the Government will encourage these things, industries will be fostered. Is not the Government of Japan giving money for starting industries?

PRESIDENT: That proposal is not before the House now.

MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI: Why should such a large amount be spent in acquiring land near the School of Arts? Why not go in for a place further away?

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[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

MR. I. C. CHACKO: That is because the School of Arts and the Sri Mulam Technical School are already in the locality. It is proposed to install some textile and other machinery in the institute of textile technology. This machinery may be driven by the steam engine belonging to the School of Arts, which can develop more power than that required for the School of Arts machinery. Then again, the students of the textile institute will have to learn drawing and mechanical engineering, which subjects are now being taught in the two existing schools. For this purpose also the proposed textile institute should be near the School of Arts. It will be more economical in the long run to concentrate all these activities in the same place.

MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI: With these Rs. 20,000, you can get a larger area.

PRESIDENT: That is your opinion which should not be expressed at this stage. You asked a question and the answer was given.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Then, with regard to the tanning expert, the work I have set for him is to make a survey of the quantity and quality of the hides and skins exported from Travancore with a view to find out whether a tannery on modern lines can be profitably started in Travancore. He will also investigate the tanning materials available in Travancore and study the methods of flaying and curing hides and skins with a view to remedy the defects, if any, in these processes as now practised.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Are they expected to start afresh or has anything been done by the prior Director of Industries so that we have only to continue from where he has left?

PRESIDENT: He cannot answer that question within the ten minutes' time allotted to him. He will give the information in his reply.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I think it will be better to give him some more time in order that he may explain what the other two experts are going to do.

PRESIDENT: If the House wishes, he will be allowed some more time.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: He may be allowed some more time so that he may be able to explain more fully.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Chacko, you may now answer Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: The question is whether anything has been done by the former Director. In some respects we have only to continue the work started by him. For example, the Peripatetic Weaving Instructor, who goes about giving instruction in weaving, was appointed in Dr. Barker's time. Then there was the Weaving Institute at Neyyur. It has now been amalgamated with the S. M. R. V. Institute at Nagercoil.

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I was speaking about the tanning expert. If, with the materials available in Travancore, it is possible to start a tannery here, he will prepare a plan and select a site for it. The selection of the site is a very important thing. A large quantity of water of a particular quality is required for running a tannery and a large quantity of tan-yard refuse has to be disposed of without causing public nuisance. These are some of the duties the tanning expert has now to attend to. What use we may make of him in the future will depend largely on the results of the present investigations.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I wish to know whether any investigation has been made by the department.

MR I. C. CHACKO: Nothing has been done yet. Large quantities of hides and skins are exported from Travancore. That is all that I know.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Is it proposed to open any school for teaching tanning to students?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: That can be decided only after a tannery has been started.

Now I may refer to the work of the oil chemist. His chief work is of a highly experimental nature. We cannot expect any immediate results from his work as from the work of the two experts I have just referred to. As some of the members on the other side have been observing in connection with Dr. Kunjan Pillai's experiments, one success out of many attempts may more than compensate for the losses we may incur on the failures. The oil chemist cannot be expected to say beforehand what economic results will follow from his researches. We have several kinds of oil seeds and fish oils in Travancore, of which cocoanut alone is now used on a large commercial scale. Let us take, for example, laurel nut. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has been telling us of the value of its *poonac* as a manure. But we are now using its oil only as a lamp-oil, and even for this purpose it is used only by the poorer classes. It is possible that some better commercial use may be found for it as the result of researches conducted on it. The same may be said of *marotti* and other vegetable oils and the fish oils. Then there are the methods of extraction of the various kinds of oils to be studied and improved wherever necessary. Besides oil extraction, there are other oil industries, such as soap and candle making, which the oil chemist is expected to investigate. As a preliminary to his research work, the oil chemist will be asked to make a survey of the oil seeds and fish oils of Travancore.

Anyhow I may tell the House that these experts are now appointed only temporarily. Whether their appointments will be made permanent depends on the results obtained in the course of their preliminary work.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, I oppose the motion. I sympathise with my friend Mr. Velu Pillai in his natural anxiety that the Department of Industries should be provided

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

with sufficient funds at the outset of its career. After listening to the Director of Industries I am not satisfied that the funds at his disposal are not sufficient for the immediate requirements of the coming year. I think that some practical work may be done by the textile expert for the development of cottage industries. I have heard Travancoreans say that at one time handlooms supplied fully the requirements of the country without the people being forced to depend on Lancashire or Tinnevelly. During the war we found how helpless we were in the matter of clothing. I think it is a mistake to suggest to the Government the introduction of spinning and weaving on a factory scale. Apart from the question of heavy outlay which the scheme will entail, it is a speculative concern directly competing with big industrial undertakings in our neighbourhood run by private agencies. What perhaps would appeal to many of us as a move in the right direction would be the dissemination of useful information to the cottagers and the development of cottage industries by the textile expert. The introduction of handloom spinning and weaving as a cottage industry on a large scale which the agricultural and labouring population can follow in periods of enforced idleness deserves prompt consideration by the department. The much-maligned *charka* is mainly condemned by its opponents on the ground that its product cannot compete with machine-made yarn. That objection cannot apply to its adoption as a subsidiary industry by the large masses of our people in their spare hours in the evenings or during the days when agricultural operations do not require their attendance in the fields. If *charkas* and fly-shuttle looms are popularised in villages, if villagers are provided with them on an instalment-payment system, and if some peripatetic inspectors go round the villages explaining to the people how to handle these simple implements, there is no doubt that it will lead to a marked improvement in the economic condition of the masses and the Department of Industries will have amply justified its creation and continuance.

As regards the tanning expert, I think it will not be fair on our part at this stage to call upon the Director to give us a detailed statement of the possibilities of developing this industry on a large scale. The first duty of the expert will be to examine the questions referred to by Mr. Chacko in detail and submit his report. The appointment is evidently a temporary one; and if the natural resources of the country and the supply of the raw materials available are not favourable for the starting of the industry, I take it that the expert goes out of service. I oppose the motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I would support the spirit of Mr. Velu Pillai's motion, but I object to any cut being made in the grant. Before I heard Mr. Chacko regarding the work of the Geological Department, I was under the impression that he was having quite a nice and easy time of it. He is evidently hiding his

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light under a bushel. The combination of industries and geology seems to be false economy. There are, I believe, tremendous possibilities both for geology and industries in Travancore. As far as industries are concerned, we have only touched their fringe. A number of people in South Travancore and on the sea-coast are engaged in lace-making, which is a cottage industry. It supports many families during the non-fishing season on the coast. It is now mostly confined to the South Travancore Shanars and the fisher-folk in and about Quilon. This industry ought to be introduced among all classes from one end of the country to the other.

The manufacture of sugar is going to be a big business here. It is a matter for great regret that the tapping of sweet toddy from the cocoanut and the sago (*chundapana*) palms has been almost stifled to death, owing to a narrow and short-sighted policy of the Excise Department. The rules framed under the Abkari Regulation allow the tapping of trees in some of the taluks of the Trivandrum Division and of Central and North Travancore, no license being required in South Travancore for the same. *Pani* which is made from the sweet juice of the *chundapana* is indispensable in marriage and other ceremonies among the Syrian Christians. Licenses must be freely issued for the tapping of sweet toddy and this industry thereby revived. Steps should also be taken in time to check the movement among Ezhavas and even among some of the Shanars to put a stop to tree-tapping. If the movement catches on, it will be a death-blow both to the manufacture of jaggery and the proposed sugar factory.

Mr. Chacko spoke about the dyeing of coir yarn, etc. The dyeing of yarn and mats and matting is kept as a trade secret in firms dealing with these articles. A dyed coir mat fetches a much higher price than a plain one. The secret of fast dyeing should be found out and taught to the people.

Lots of furniture, it would appear, are being made somewhere in Trivandrum and supplied to schools and colleges. These, ought, I think, to be made in the Quilon Carpentry School on which a good sum is going to be spent this year.

Fish-curing is still being carried on in a crude fashion all along our coasts and a great deal of money is lost thereby. It is a pity that nothing is being done to improve the primitive methods of three or four hundred years ago. Rotten fish is not only a waste of food and money, but a constant source of danger to public health. Sir Frederick Nicholson has done much to improve fish-curing, fruit preserving, etc. We ought to introduce his methods here.

We are exporting a lot of cocoanut oil to Europe and other places and we get it back as cocoatine, soap, etc. When can we manufacture such articles here? Take tapioca next. The raw product exported, comes back to us as biscuits and so forth. All this is loss of wealth. Something must be done and that soon, to save all the money that now goes into other people's pockets and is enriching them. A number of other suggestions may be made, but as my time is up, I must stop here.

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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I think that what my friend Mr. Velu Pillai wanted to emphasise was that the Government should have a definite plan for utilising the services of these experts who have returned from England after their studies and that Government should also be in a position to supply them with the necessary funds. If it is not possible to do so, Government money will be unnecessarily wasted. If I have understood Mr. Velu Pillai correctly, I not only sympathise with him as my friend Mr. Krishna Aiyangar has done, but have great pleasure in supporting him.

The great mistake has been to send out men for training in Europe without any adequate idea as to how their services could be utilised to the best interests of the State. Before the Government launched any such schemes of foreign scholarships, an efficient economic and industrial survey should have been made. I note from the proceedings of the Popular Assembly that a demand was made by the members for such a survey, and that after it was persisted in for some years, an officer who was not wanted in his own department was appointed temporarily as the Director of Industries and asked to make the necessary survey. Excuse me, Sir, for saying so,—he was entirely unfit for the work that he was asked to do. Neither by education nor by training was he fitted to perform the difficult task with which he was entrusted. The result of his survey, embodied in his report, is far from being instructive or illuminating. The report is imperfect in several respects and gives us no guidance as to the kind of industries that might be started in the country. It was, therefore, before the Government had formed any definite and clear idea as to the means of making use of their services, that these students were deputed to qualify themselves in special branches of industrial and technical subjects. While the Director of Industries was explaining to the House how he proposed to employ these men, I requested you, Sir, to allow him some more time in order that he might enlighten us as to how he was going to employ these experts. But I confess, Sir, that the Director was not able to satisfy us, except in regard to the dyeing and textile expert, who, it is true, may supervise the work of and give instruction to our weavers. This is not the first time that the Government have committed themselves to a policy of drift and want of forethought, guided perhaps by the fads of the day. During His Highness the late Maha Raja's time, two students were sent to study agriculture. On their return, the Government did not know what to do with them. One of them was, therefore, employed as Kandukrishi Tahsildar, who developed in course of time into a full-blown Tahsildar and retired. As to what happend to the other, I do not know. Anyhow the Agricultural Department was organised only recently—after Dr. Kunjan Pillai's return from Europe. The second time a similar mistake was committed was when the Government awarded scholarships to two students to study geology in Europe. Both of them returned duly qualified and both were employed as State Geologists. We are yet to know the nature of the work done by these Geologists. One of

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them, however, has left the department and I do not think that the State has been the worse for it. The third is the present deputation of which we are now speaking. The fundamental error of the policy consists in assuming that these young students who return after a course of training in some special subjects possess the necessary knowledge, initiative and ability to organise business to enable them to start new industrial enterprises. They may have acquired the necessary knowledge for doing their work in their special field. But to find out what facilities exist for starting a new industry or for actually organising a business, other and deeper qualities and great experience of local conditions are required, which these raw men cannot be expected to possess. I may illustrate my point further. The dyeing expert may dye a piece of cloth well, provided you provide him with the necessary dyes. But he may not be able to tell us what facilities exist in this country for manufacturing dyes, nor can you expect him to have sufficient knowledge of business organisation and initiative to start a dyeing industry here. He may make a good servant, but not necessarily a good master, so that until the Government are in a position to give them proper and useful employment it is a folly to spend money upon such scholars. Even now, our Director of Industries is not able to tell us how these persons are going to be employed. Under these circumstances, I am inclined to support Mr. Velu Pillai's proposition.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, though the motion of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai is for a reduction of the grant for the Department of Industries, his real object is, I believe, to suggest to the Government the advisability of allotting more funds to the department so that the services of the three or four experts who have just returned from Europe may be fully utilised. Mr. Velu Pillai knows that, before anything could be done towards the development of the industries in which these experts have been trained, a certain amount of investigation has to be carried out. The question was asked whether any preliminary investigation was conducted by the former Director of Industries before he decided upon the subjects in which men were to be trained. It must be rememberd that investigation into the scope and possibilities of a particular industry could be carried out satisfactorily only by an expert in that industry and that this is beyond the sphere of a Director of Industries who may not be an expert in the industry concerned.

We have now in our midst three or four young men who have returned from Europe with special training in different industries, and before they launch out big schemes they must carry out the necessary investigations and make sure of the commercial success of their schemes. The provision made in the budget is intended mainly for these investigations. After completing the investigations, the experts will be able to organise the industries for which there is scope in this country and manage them successfully.

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[DR. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I ask Dr. Kunjan Pillai whether the organisation of industries is not entirely different from the management thereof and whether the organisation of industries does not require much more knowledge and experience than what these experts possess ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Experience is essential for the organisation of industries, but some young men immediately after their return from England have been able to investigate and organise industries sucessfully. Take for example the tanning expert in Cochin. On his return after training he was as young as any of our experts and yet he investigated the possibilities of the tanning industry in Cochin and submitted a valuable report, and on the lines suggested by him a tannery is being established in Cochin. Anyhow it is not fair to condemn our experts simply because they are young and fresh from the college.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I never condemned them. I advocated their claims.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I did not say that Mr. Velu Pillai condemned them, but I believe that Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai said something to that effect.

The provision in the budget is practically what is required for the experts to carry out their preliminary investigations. As regards the weaving expert, it has been pointed out by Mr. Chacko that, besides the sum of Rs. 10,000 provided for his investigations, a sum of Rs. 21,000 has been allotted for the acquisition of lands near the School of Arts for the location of his laboratory and institute. In the School of Arts, some industries and crafts are being carried on and the weaving expert will find facilities already existing there for at least some items of his work. It will certainly be cheaper to provide additional facilities there and combine the weaving institute with the School of Arts than to have the two institutions at different places. The cost of acquiring private lands in the heart of the town is no doubt a point to be considered; but as against the heavy initial cost required for this purpose, large savings in other directions can be effected by having the two institutions in close proximity, so that, in the long run, this will be found to be more economical.

The tanning expert has to carry out certain preliminary investigations before he can think of starting a tannery. From the trade returns one can find out the quantity of hides and skins that are being exported from the country, but the availability of tanning materials, the suitability of water, and other facilities have to be investigated by the expert. Similarly, the oil expert has to study the properties of different vegetable oils and find out what articles can be made out of them. Even the manufacture of soap, which appears to be quite a simple process to a layman, requires investigation

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and experimenting before the industry could be established on a commercial scale. The oil chemist to the Government of Madras, Mr. Kesava Menon, had to spend several years after his return from Europe in experimenting on the manufacture of soap, and it is only recently that he has been able to demonstrate the commercial success of the Government Soap Factory at Calicut.

The point that I wish to emphasise is that no expert will be able to say whether an industry could be established or not without investigating the matter, and it will be folly to enter into big schemes before making sure of their commercial success. With the funds provided for the coming year, the experts will be able to carry out the necessary preliminary investigations.

In regard to the cottage industries referred to by Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, I think I am right in saying that the Department of Industries is devoting adequate attention to the development of the most important among these industries, *viz.*, weaving. My own Department of Fisheries is also doing something in this direction for the benefit of the fishermen. I have already opened one school and mean to open another at an early date for training boys of the fisher classes in weaving, in order to provide them with means of earning their livelihood during non-fishing seasons.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion to reduce the grant. There are ever so many natural resources in our country and I should think that the future of our country must depend upon the development of these natural resources. As such, I should support any attempt towards the development of of those natural resources. Of course, there is a good deal of suspicion about our Department of Industries, and I should think that it is due more to the unhappy selection which the Government made in regard to its first Director of Industries. He was, at any rate, not able to do any substantial good to the country. I think that his selection did not, in any way, help the purpose for which he was appointed. If at all his appointment succeeded in anything, it was in creating a good deal of suspicion among the people.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai pointed out that, before people are appointed to do a particular work in the Industrial Department, there should be a plan of working. I think his idea is that the Director of Industries should be left to work at a particular policy and that it is only after the shaping of that policy by him that individuals should be appointed to be in charge of particular sections.

Some years ago, I moved in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly for a separate Department of Industries. The then Dewan, Mr. P. Rajagopalachariar, while agreeing with me in the need for having a separate department, pointed out the difficulty of getting an individual as an expert in all branches of industries as Director. That difficulty stands even to-day and will stand for ever. To my mind, that difficulty could very well be overcome by having several experts who

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

are trained in several branches of industries. Mr. Chacko, the present Director of Industries, has pointed out to this House that what he has proposed to do now is only to appoint some experts who are skilled in certain branches of industries to investigate the possibility of establishing those industries in the State. I should think that this House should help him in this attempt and for that reason I should whole-heartedly support Mr. Chacko and oppose the motion for the reduction of the grant.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I understand that Mr. Velu Pillai's motion for a reduction of the grant is really intended to secure an enhanced allotment for the Department of Industries. While agreeing with him as to the necessity for alloting a larger sum, I should think that the provision now made is quite ample for the next year. As has already been said by Mr. Chacko, a preliminary investigation has to be conducted with reference to many of the new industries, and that must needs take some time. There is nothing to prevent the Director from applying to the House for a supplemental grant, if additional funds are required in the course of the year. At any rate, what I want to impress upon the Director is that he should not spend a very large amount, unless he has definite ideas as to the programme of work to be followed during the next year. The department itself was started with a policy of drift. We find that, during the short period of the existence of this department, several industries were attempted to be started and factories established only to be abolished forthwith. For instance, it is stated that the oil expert started an oil factory in 1095 and it was abolished in 1096. He is now touring in the country, popularising the distillation of lemon grass oil. Then there was the jaggery factory, started in 1095 on cottage methods. Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield of Quilon were asked to supply the machinery. A site was selected and there also arrived the machine. But, all the same, the jaggery factory was a failure and the machinery proved defective. It is now in one corner of the Director's office to be sent over to the college laboratory for such use as the authorities there may put it to. The mechanic and some other persons who were employed for the jaggery factory have been disbanded and the jaggery factory collapsed soon after it was started.

Now, take the bamboo industry again. It was started for being abolished forthwith. I do not want the policy to be repeated again. It is very necessary to impress upon the Director of Industries that our money should not be spent on mere experiments when you have no definite notions about things. He ought to be discreet and discriminate hereafter in launching out on new schemes. The Director is not himself an industrial expert. He would do well to take advice from experts and utilise their knowledge before he organises industries. It is with a view to impress upon the Director of Industries that he should not spend money in any way that might occur to him, that I have made these observations.

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MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: I wish to know whether, in view of the fact that the researches of oil experts in Malabar and other places may be availed of, there is any real necessity for employing an expert here to experiment on oil seeds. I think that, in respect of textile and other minor industries, it would be better to get down batches of trained workmen from Japan and other places to teach our people here, than to employ these experts who do not really achieve anything substantial.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: നാട്ടിൽ ഓരോത്തരം വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ വളർത്തിക്കണമെന്നു കരുതി യൂറോപ്പിൽ അയച്ചു ചില യുവാക്കന്മാരെ പരിശീലിപ്പിച്ചു വരുത്തുകയും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ വേണ്ടവിധം പ്രവർത്തിപ്പാൻ ഉദ്യമിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ എനിക്ക് അതിയായ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഈരാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഓരോഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ഏതെല്ലാം തരം വ്യവസായങ്ങൾക്കാണ് പറ്റിയതെന്ന് വേണ്ടവിധം ആലോചിച്ചു നിശ്ചയിച്ച് അതാതു സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കു പറ്റിയ വ്യവസായങ്ങളെ അവിടവിടെ പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ തക്കവണ്ണം ഇരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒരുവിധം ധാരാളമായും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കുറേശ്ശയായും നെയ്ത്തു പണ്ടേതന്നെ നടക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് നെയ്ത്തു വ്യവസായം തീരെ ഇല്ലാത്ത വടക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലാണ് അതു ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതു്. കാർപെൻററി, ചൂരൽവ്യവസായം ഇവ മലയോരങ്ങളിലുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നടത്തുവാൻ അധികം സൌകര്യമുണ്ട്. മലയാളം മൈനർസ്കൂളുകളിൽ പഠിച്ചു വെളിക്കു വരുന്ന യുവാക്കന്മാർ ഗവർമെൻറിന്റെ ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടിക്കാതേയും തൊഴിലുകൾ ഒന്നും വശമില്ലാതേയും വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഒരു അവസ്ഥ വളരെ ശോചനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ശ്രേയസ്സിനും ജനസമുദായത്തിന്റെ നന്മയ്ക്കും വിഘാതത്തെ ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യമാണ്. ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തിന്റേയും സ്ഥിതിക്കനുസരണമായി ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ചില്ലറവ്യവസായപരിശീലനംകൂടി മലയാളം മൈനർസ്കൂൾ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകാലത്ത് ഉൾക്കൊള്ളിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം വേണ്ട വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നത് മേൽപ്രസ്താവിച്ച ദോഷങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രതിവിധിയായിരിക്കും. വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഇടംപെയ്തും ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നും താമസംവിനാ പതിയേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഈ വകുപ്പിലെക്ക ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യകൾ ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ അധികമല്ലെന്നും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, in view of the prevalence of general enthusiasm in respect of industrial movements, I know it is practically a heresy to oppose any movement of that kind. I fear that a sense of delicacy may be seen in some of the members on this side of the House as well. But the question now before the House has to be examined from the standpoint of the tax-payer. Every Head of the Administration, and any person who has got any part or lot in the matter of the administration of the State, will do well to remember the recent reply of the Dewan of Mysore when he said that no Government could afford to speculate with the tax-payer's money. In all these industrial movements, especially the sort of the development to which we have been listening, there seems to be some idea of speculation. I am certainly of opinion that if any industrial idea has not evolved enough and has not advanced

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[The President.]

further than the stage of speculation, we are not in a position to risk the tax-payer's money upon that. It is because of that, in the present instance, that I put the question to ascertain whether the previous Director of Industries did any field work, to give us an assurance as to how far some of these industries that we have heard mentioned would be successful concerns in Travancore. With respect to that, I had a sort of partial answer from the present Director to say that he had something to do with the textile industry. But, with reference to tanning, Mr. Chacko has been telling us that it remains to be seen whether there would be the suitable sort of water to undertake this particular industry.

Then, as to the other question, namely, the one with respect to the oil expert, he has been very candid, and I think that success there is but an off-chance. It is too much, after all, at the experimental stage. In all kinds of industries there are various stages to be noted. For example, sulphuric acid, though it comes into the manufacture of various useful articles, has had its own history. It was, first of all, a laboratory product, and then it was manufactured on a large scale, so much so that it came to be utilised for a number of industrial purposes. Now, if certain things can be considered as advanced beyond the laboratory stage, then we can think of advancing further than that. Has the oil experiment advanced beyond the laboratory stage so that it may be taken up as encouraging the industrial outlook? I fear we have not yet reached that stage. No doubt, when the Agricultural Department was under discussion, and I demanded an assurance from the Director of Agriculture, Dr. Kunjan Pillai, certain speakers were practically hinting to me that I should not raise such questions and that, until he is satisfied with his own experiment, the money that is provided already should not be treated with such scrupulous anxiety. If any scientist is really bent upon speculation, he is welcome to do so. But the hard-earned money of the tax-payer should certainly receive serious attention. At any rate, what I was able to make out from Mr. Chacko is that this oil gentleman's scheme seems to be rather in an embryonic condition. Now, he has to be confined to the laboratory in the first instance, instead of being allowed to roam over the State. At least to that extent, I am clearly of opinion that I should support the opinion of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I should like to supplement what Mr. Chacko has told you.

In regard to the textile expert, Mr. Chacko has told you that a certain amount of work has already been done by the previous Director, and perhaps even before the previous Director was appointed, improvements to fly-shuttle looms were introduced and they were adopted by a large number of weavers. A good deal of improvement in this cottage industry had, therefore, been attained, before any expert or scholar—whatever you may call him—returned from England. In regard to the recently entertained scholar

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the idea of Government is that, seeing that a certain amount of work has already been done, he should continue that work, and push on the cottage weaving industries and improve them as far as possible, not merely in the matter of weaving and dyeing, but also in sizing, warping and so on. It is for that expenditure that a certain amount has been allotted in the budget, *viz.*, Rs. 10,000. This amount is only for buying a sizing machine, weaving accessories, shuttle accessories and things like that, throwing them broadcast in the country, and popularising them. This is an industry which has been already established to a large extent as a cottage industry in the country. At present, the safest course for the Government to adopt is to push on this industry. I suppose you are now satisfied with the necessity for this allotment.

In regard to the other scholars, Government have been adopting exactly the principle that the non-official gentlemen here advocate. Government do not want to speculate upon the tax-payer's money. Government are not yet satisfied that these scholars are going to put before Government any factory scheme or any other scheme which it will be profitable to take up. As Dr. Kunjan Pillai remarked and as Mr. Chacko has already told you, a certain amount of investigation is necessary before Government can decide whether further expenditure would be justified. These men have been put on probation for one year. They will have to go about and investigate. The tanning expert will have to find out whether he has got the required quantity of hides and skins, and if so, of what quality, and see whether there are places where the industry could be profitably introduced. At present, we are entertaining this man for that purpose. I do not think that the salary of the man, *viz.*, Rs. 3,000 per annum is a waste of money.

Similarly, in the case of the oil chemist, we have given him only Rs. 300, because he has already got a laboratory. The work he has got to do will be partly field-work and partly laboratory work. He will have to see the varieties of raw materials available and then go to the laboratory and see what result their chemical analysis gives him. I do not think we have said the final word with regard to research.

MR. P K. NARAYANA PILLAI: The scope of the employment of these men is rendered quite clear from the Chair.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, my object was not at all to reduce the amount demanded by the Director of Industries. That has been made plain in my speech and I am sorry that there should have been any semblance of doubt about that matter. On listening to the speeches of my friends on this as well as on the other side of the House, I find that, although some of them expressed sympathy with my views, they have not been able to support me. Sir, sympathy, especially when it emanates from an elderly gentleman, has to be greatly valued, because with the progress of years the springs of enthusiasm

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

do not always respond to the demand. Young men are more impulsive, and, therefore, more sympathetic than old men. Therefore, I thank Mr. Krishna Aiyangar all the more for the words of sympathy that he has expressed.

Dr. Kunjan Pillai has come to the support of Mr. Chacko. As we know that agriculture is the hand-maid to industry, it is no wonder that Dr. Kunjan Pillai is the best man to Mr. Chacko.

The so-called tanning experiments referred to by Dr. Kunjan Pillai are in an amorphous condition. He is a very intelligent man, who speaks exceedingly well; but still he has to meet my arguments. The conditions in Travancore are not very different from those in Cochin in the matter of the supply of hides and employment of labour. As Dr. Kunjan Pillai has generously admitted, we can find out from trade statistics the quantity of hides available within Travancore. I do not really see why men should go about from place to place in order to obtain these statistics. If this Council entertains the opinion that any peripatetic action on the part of the intending tanning expert is necessary, I would say that all the experience of the Director of Industries, the Director of Agriculture, the Dewan Peishkars, the other heads of departments and the successive Dewans during all these years, has been in vain. What is the object of an officer's circuit, unless he finds out local conditions? We are in possession of large quantities of facts and figures published under the authority of Government. Now, if all this is of no use and if we are to shape our opinion according to the rough and ready proposals of novices who have just come out from school, I do not know what the administration is coming to. I, therefore, enter my emphatic protest against these paper investigations which are being designed to serve no useful purpose. The Government is fast developing a great fancy for experts. We hear of appointments being sought to be distributed between the different castes and communities in the State. In the same manner, and in a spirit of militant equity, the Government distributes money in mere doles, some to the oil expert, some to the tanning expert, a little to the shellac expert and a good portion to the fortunate experts in indolence and irresponsibility. This may perhaps be necessary in this the Land of Charity. We should, however, set our face against this system of money doles, against this attitude of complacent and indiscriminate generosity. We should spend money only in channels through which a commensurate advantage is likely to accrue to the State. If the hypotheses are clear and the expectations held out are consistent with reasonable prudence, this Council will never think of refusing its support to the Department of Industries. I, for one, can never grudge these grants of money; on the other hand, I want much more to be given. But I am in favour of spending large amounts for necessary purposes as contrasted with wasting small sums on doubtful schemes and unwise methods. I hope the Director of Industries will not question my good

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faith in the matter.

This, Sir, is the *alpha* and *omega* of my proposal. 'Penny-wise and pound-foolish' is not a maxim which will be subscribed to by this Council. Some of my friends appear to advise me to withdraw the motion. But, thus far, the important points raised have not been answered by the members on the other side of the House. We were listening to elaborate arguments about the necessity of conducting experiments in science. We have heard of the leyden jar and the gold-leaf electroscope; and we have seen them. No defence of research work is necessary in this Council, composed as it is of men who know their business. But as we are now considering practical proposals regarding the grant of funds, we on this side of the House are justified in thinking of probable results. There is no use in keeping this aspect of the question in the background and spending our energy in the discussion of merely theoretical problems, especially when there is no difference of opinion as to the necessity of scientific experiments. There is little use in Government members talking of cheese, when we are talking of chalk! That is not the way in which administrative and financial questions should be tackled.

We are not experts; we are only laymen; we only take a commonsense view of things; and we believe that commonsense is a corrective to the scientific and technical outlook of the expert. We know that a starvation diet does not conduce to maximum health; and Rs. 10,000 a year to the textile expert, and another Rs. 4,000 to the tanning expert, for staff, supplies and services, all told, is nothing more than starvation rations. I am sorry I am unable to take a different view of the question; and I fear none of these patriotic experts will be able to convince me by the foregoing species of arguments. I shall be able to accept their version of the sufficiency of this close-fisted distribution only in case they admit that they would, day in and day out, prefer a few morsels to a full meal. Sir, there is no good in talking of industrial regeneration and agricultural advancement without giving them the sinews of war. I am unable to accept the politic and obliging readiness of the heads of these Development Departments to accommodate the Government with these poor demands. I cannot accept their words in such matters of common knowledge. The collective intelligence of this Council is very much more than the rough untried opinion of the experts. I do not want to speak disparagingly of them. We must decide on the data furnished by them.

PRESIDENT: Do you want to press this motion to a division?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I would only request Mr. Chacko to utilise this money properly and request for more money afterwards. With these words, I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Council rose for lunch at 2-10 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

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[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

***Motion* 140.**

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

140. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 66,180 for Direction by Rs. 1,000.

This motion is practically identical with the one that has been discussed just now. Still I am moving it, because I also wish to say a word or two on the subject. I have also to repeat what my friends have already said, *viz.*, that our industrial policy or industrial expansion has been proceeding generally without any coherence and in a haphazard manner. I think that the first attempt of Government at the development of industry was to take up shares in the Punalur Paper Mills. Later on, it involved Government in spending more and more money on it, until at last the whole amount invested was lost. Then the other instance is the loan to the Mundakayam Ropeway Company. That too is not a very promising undertaking. There are also other instances which I can quote. The granting of foreign scholarships and the bringing into existence of a number of experts,—all this does not represent the deliberately expressed mind of Government. Generally these have been brought about either through some external pressure or in response to repeated public opinion that something should be done in the direction of industrial expansion by Government. We are now suffering from a number of experts and we have to provide employment for a number of them.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that that statement is correct. Government are not bound to provide for them.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: We are now discussing about the policy of the Government as regards this department. I do not know whether there was any deliberate policy underlying the choice of the particular lines for these experts. If, without taking proper precaution in formulating a policy, we commit ourselves to lines of expenditure which may appear to be very trivial for the moment, later on these would prove the thin end of the wedge just as in similar instances where we are paying for other schemes which in their inception did not appear to be formidable. There is also the possibility of danger lurking in any policy to which we may commit ourselves. My suggestion is that every precaution ought to be taken, so that these experts may be made use of to the best advantage of the country.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Sir, this motion is almost identical with the one we have just been considering. As regards the use the Department of Industries is going to make of these experts—

PRESIDENT: Please speak louder.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: I have a definite plan of work for them, as I stated in my reply to the last motion. As was pointed out in connection withthat motion, their appointment is temporary until Government are in a position to decide whether their services may be permanently made use of. As the main questions raised by the motion have thus already

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been answered, I propose now to deal with a principle enunciated by a member on the other side during the discussion on the last motion, which I could not then touch upon as the motion was withdrawn before my final reply. It was stated by the member that public funds should not be employed for speculations. Of course, that principle may be accepted as a general one in regard to the use of public funds. But there are certain undertakings for which public funds will have to be utilised, especially under the conditions obtaining in India, although the undertakings may very well come under the category of speculations. Scientific research is really a kind of speculation. No scientist who embarks on a line of research knows for certain what is going to come out of it. In England there are big endowments which, to a certain extent, meet the requirements of scientific research. But in Germany, you know, public funds have been largely employed for what may be called scientific speculations and we know what results have followed therefrom. In the United States of America also, they spend large sums of public money for scientific research of a kind that may be called speculation. They spend, for example, millions of dollars on their geological survey, with the work of which I am more acquainted than with that of other departments of scientific research in that country. In Canada also, much money is spent in scientific work. After the war, England has taken a leaf from her neighbour's book and is trying to foster scientific research with public money. But there some scientific men criticise this policy of Government, not because they think that the expenditure is of a speculative nature, but because they hold that this proffered help from public funds is likely to stifle true scientific research. If public funds are utilised for research, the scientists engaged in it will have to convince every politician that comes along of the value of their work. Under such conditions, it is feared that science cannot grow. Some time ago, I received a pamphlet written by Professor Armstrong, in which the action of the Government in trying to subsidise scientific research is severely criticised for this reason.

Great results have often followed from researches, of the utility of which an unscientific politician could not possibly have been convinced. Take, for example, the researches of James Clerk Maxwell. He was fiddling with leyden jars which most of us have seen as amusing toys in our school days. It was from this fiddling with leyden jars that he evolved his theory of electro-magnetism, from which we now have the wonderfully useful system of wireless telegraphy. If Maxwell had gone to the House of Commons with a request for money for playing with leyden jars, they would probably have turned him out with a flat refusal. But there was the Cavendish Laboratory for him and he could untilise its resources for his researches. But in India, Sir, where are the endowments for scientific research? How can scientific research be carried on in India without State help?

As I have said, European States have come forward with the offer of help for scientific research. There also, this research is a kind of speculation. In making use of our experts we must be prepared to spend some money for what may be called speculation. As I have already

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[Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

said, it is not possible now to give any certain forecast of the economic benefits of the proposed work on oils. But it may be said that the utilisation of oils is a subject which is attracting the attention of chemists in all civilised countries. It may be asked whether we may not be benefited by the researches carried on abroad and why we should incur expenditure on the same kind of work here. We may certainly get much useful information from those researches. But there must be somebody here who can understand their significance. Then there are special problems connected with the oils of Travancore which we cannot expect foreign chemists to undertake and which we have to get solved at our own cost.

It has been asked with regard to the tanning expert whether we cannot form a clear idea from the available statistics as to whether a tannery can be started in Travancore. Yes, we have statistics and the tanning expert tells me that the number of hides and skins exported from Travancore will be enough to run two tanneries of moderate size. But there are other questions to be considered in connection with the starting of tanneries, such, for example, as the quality of water. These questions have to be carefully studied before a scheme can be framed for establishing a tannery. Since a tannery has been started in Cochin, it may be presumed that one can be started in Travancore also, as the physical and geological features of the two States are almost identical.

Another impression which I have to remove is that Government are going to be led entirely by these young men in these industrial problems. These young men are well trained in their respective professions and they are quite competent to collect facts and figures and place them in a systematic manner before the Government who may consult experienced men and take their advice regarding the feasibility of the proposed schemes.

With these few remarks, I beg to oppose the motion.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 141.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

141. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,558 for Supplies Services and Contingencies under the Sri Mulam Technical School by Rs. 4,000.

Sir, in this connection, I have to bring to the notice of this House the fact that under minor heads such as miscellaneous, etc., all heads of departments, without any exception, demand big sums. Take, for instance, the supplies and services in the Sri Mulam Technical School, where they budget for Rs. 7,558, *i. e.*, for an increase of Rs. 3,898 over the allotment sanctioned last year. The miscellaneous expenses alone come to Rs. 500. Anyhow, Rs. 7,558 is too much and I think that Rs. 4,000 may be safely cut off from this item.

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MR. I. C. CHACKO: Sir, I am sorry that that it is not possible to make any reduction out of this allotment. It is true that the expenditure in the coming year is a little more than that in the current year. The greater part of that increased expenditure is due to the intention of the Government to get down some engineering models for the Sri Mulam Technical Institute. You know that it is an engineering school and that it has to be provided with a great number of models of engine parts. These are very costly. During the current year, we could afford to spend only about Rs. 1,000 on the purchase of engine models. In the coming year, we propose to get down engine models for about Rs. 3,000. It is this that has increased the allotment. Then, with regard to "Miscellaneous"—office expenses—that includes provision for postage, anchal charges, sweepers, etc. And I do not think that the amount under this item is excessive.

PRESIDENT: In the light of the explanation offered, are you inclined to press the motion or withdraw it?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: May I know from Mr. Chacko what will be the expenditure under office expenses alone?

PRESIDENT: I presume it will be very little.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: That will be about Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Then I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 142.**

The following motion was not made:

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

142. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,171 for Supplies and Services and Contingencies by Rs. 3,000.

***Motion* 143.**

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

143. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1·58 lakhs under Demand XVI by Rs. 100.

This motion was intended to cover a discussion of the policy of the department. I find that it has been already discussed in various aspects in connection with the previous motions. One point alone I wish to raise and I shall be satisfied with a statement of policy from Mr. Chacko. Much has been said about experts, the oil expert and the tanning expert, and I find that the appointment of an electrical expert is proposed.

PRESIDENT: He has not yet been engaged.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: At the time of the general discussion, I understood from Mr. Chacko that the services of an electrical expert had been accepted by Government. I should like to know whether he has anything to do with this department.

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[Mr. M. Nilakanda Pillai.]

MR. I. C. CHACKO: I said that the electrical expert had expressed his willingness to accept a Government appointment.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I should like to know whether there is any intention on the part of the Government to accept his services.

PRESIDENT: If you want an explanation in the matter, I may say that the matter is under the consideration of Government.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Then I do not wish to press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a grant of Rs. 1·58 lakhs be made to the Government under Demand XVI—Industries.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XVII—Medical.

DEWAN BAHADUR Dr. P. N. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I beg to move that a grant of Rs. 5.20 lakhs be made under Demand XVII—Medical.

***Motion* 141.**

MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

144. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5.20 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 1,000.

In moving for a reduction of Rs. 1,000 from the budget allotment of the Medical Department, I beg that it may be clearly understood that I have not the remotest idea of suggesting anything calculated to restrict the scope and usefulness of that department. On the other hand, it is my earnest wish to see that that department is expanded and improved as far as the resources of the State will permit.

In the following remarks, I propose to prove to the Council that there is a considerable waste of public funds in the administration of the Medical Department. The waste is so palpable, flagrant and pronounced that even he who runs may read it.

The first prominent item of waste is observed under travelling allowances. The Darbar Physician is not governed by the fundamental rules of the T. S. R. as regards the routes adopted by him and the conveyances utilised. I do not understand why he is exempted from the general rules of the T. S. R. in the matter of travelling allowance.

There has been increase in the travelling allowances drawn by the medical subordinates during the last three years. The Government Gazette notifies the transfers of numerous medical officers, and the history of the services of medical officers has its own tale to tell in

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